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the outward part, when shut, was only a little above an inch in length, and ran parallel to the opening of the jaws. The nose was placed in the middle of the upper jaw, near an inch from its extremity, and was perfectly round and flat, being two inches in diameter, of a black, soft, spongy substance, like the nose of a dog. They had twenty-seven dog-teeth in the upper jaw, and fifteen in the lower, with several void spaces between them. They were thick at the bottom, and sharp at the point; being all of different sizes, except ten large hooked ones, six of which were in the lower jaw, and four in the upper. The mouth was fifteen inches long, and eight and a half broad, where broadest; and the distance of the two jaws, when opened as wide as possible, was fifteen inches and a half. The skull, between the two crests, was proof against a musket ball, which only rendered the part a little white that it struck against. The skin was defended by a sort of armour, which, however, was not proof against a musket-ball. They have no tongue, but in place of it a membrane, attached by its edges to the two sides of the under jaw. In the stomach of one of these animals, dissected before the English consul, they found the bones of the legs and arms of a woman, with the rings which they wear in Egypt as ornaments.

These animals are seen in some places lying for hours, and even whole days, stretched in the sun, and motionless; so that one not used to them might mistake them for trunks of trees covered with rough and dry bark: but the mistake would soon be fatal: for the seemingly torpid animal, at the near approach of any living creature, instantly darts upon it, and carries it to the bottom. In the times of an inundation they sometimes enter the cottages of the natives, where they seize the first animal they meet with. The crocodile, however, except when pressed with hunger, or with a view of depositing its eggs, seldom leaves the water. Its usual method is to float along upon the surface, and seize whatever animals come within its reach; but, when this method fails, it then goes close to the bank. There it waits in patient expectation of some land animal that comes to drink; the dog, the bull, the tiger, or man himself. It seizes the victim with a spring, and goes at a bound much faster than such an unwieldy animal could be supposed to do; then, having secured the creature both with teeth and claws, it drags it into the water, instantly sinks with it to the bottom, and in this manner quickly drowns it. Sometimes it happens that the creature, wounded by the crocodile, makes its escape; in which case the latter pursues it with great celerity, and often takes it a second time. In these depredations, however, this terrible animal often seizes on another as formidable as itself, and meets with desperate resistance. Combats often occur between the crocodile and the tiger. All tigers are continually oppressed by a parching thirst, that makes them frequent great rivers, whither they descend to drink. On these occasions they are seized by the crocodile, upon whom they turn with the greatest agility, and force their claws into his eyes, while he plunges with his fierce antagonist into the river. There they continue to struggle, till at last the tiger is drowned. A negro, however, with no other weapon than a knife in his right hand, and his left arm wrapped round with a cow-hide, will often venture boldly to attack this animal, in its own element. As soon as he approaches the crocodile, he presents his left arm, which the animal swallows; but as it sticks in his throat, the negro has time to give it several stabs below the chin, where it is easily vulnerable; and the water also getting in it at the mouth, which is held involuntarily open, the creature soon expires. The natives of Siam are particularly fond of the capture of crocodiles, which they take by throwing three or four nets across a river, at proper distances; so that if the animal breaks through the first, it may be caught by one of the rest. When first taken it employs the tail, which is the grand instrument of strength, with great force; but, after many unsuccessful struggles, the animal's strength is at last exhausted.

All crocodiles breed near fresh waters, though they are sometimes found in the sea. They produce their young by eggs, and for this purpose the female chooses a place by the side of the river, or some fresh water lake, to deposit her brood in. She always pitches upon an extensive sandy shore, where she may dig a hole without dan-

ger of detection from the ground being fresh turned up. The shore must be gentle and shelving to the water, for the greater convenience of her going and returning; and a convenient place must be found near the edge of the stream, that the young may have a shorter way to go. When all these requisites are adjusted, the animal is seen cautiously stealing up on shore to deposit her burden. The presence of a man, a beast, or even a bird, is sufficient to deter her at that time; and, if she perceives any creature looking on, she infallibly returns. If, however, nothing appears, she then goes to work, scratching up the sand with her fore-paws, and making a hole pretty deep in the shore. There she deposits from eighty to one hundred eggs, of the size and form of a tennis-ball, covered with a tough white skin like parchment. She takes above an hour to perform this task; and then, covering up the place so artfully that it can scarcely be perceived, she goes back to return again the next day. Upon her return, with the same precaution as before, she lays about the same number of eggs; and the day following also a like number. Thus having deposited her whole quantity, and having covered them closely up in the sand, they are soon vivified by the heat of the sun; and at the end of thirty days the young ones begin to break open the shell. At this time the female is instinctively taught that her young ones want relief; and she goes upon land to scratch away the sand and set them free. Her brood quickly avail themselves of their liberty; a part run unguided to the water; another part ascend the back of the female, and are carried thither in greater safety. But the moment they arrive at the water, when the female has introduced her young to their natural element, the male becomes their formidable enemy, and devours as many of them as he can. The whole brood scatters into different parts at the bottom; by far the greatest number are destroyed, and the rest find safety in their agility or minuteness. The eggs of this animal are not only a delicious feast to the savage, but are eagerly sought after by every beast and bird of prey. All along the banks of great rivers, for thousands of miles, the crocodile propagates in such numbers as would soon overrun the earth, were not the vulture appointed by Providence to counteract its fecundity.

#### THE SALAMANDER

Has a short cylindrical tail, four toes on the fore feet, and a naked, porous body. This animal has been said, even in the Philosophical Transactions, to live in the fire: but this is a mistake. It is found in the southern countries of Europe. Whilst the hardest bodies cannot resist the violence of fire, the world have endeavoured to make us believe, that a small lizard can not only withstand the flames, but even extinguish them. This lizard, which is found in so many countries of the ancient world, and even in very high latitudes, has been very little noticed, because it is seldom seen out of its hole, and because for a long time it has inspired much terror. One of the largest of this species, preserved in the late French king's cabinet, is seven inches five lines in length, from the end of the muzzle to the root of the tail, which is three inches eight lines.

It was long believed that the salamander was of one sex; and that each individual had the power of engendering its like, as several species of worms. This is not the most absurd fable which has been imagined with respect to the salamander; but, if the manner in which they come into the world is not so marvellous as has been written, it is remarkable in this, that it differs from that in which most other lizards are brought forth, as it is analogous to that in which the chalcide and the seps, as well as vipers and several kinds of serpents, are produced. On this account the salamander merits the attention of naturalists much more than on account of the false and brilliant reputation it has so long enjoyed. M. de Maupertuis, having opened some salamanders, found eggs in them, and at the same time some young perfectly formed; the eggs were divided into two long bunches like grapes, and the young were enclosed in two transparent bags; they were equally well formed as the old ones, and much more active. The salamander, therefore, brings forth young from an egg hatched within its belly, as the viper; and her fecundity is very great; naturalists have long said that she

has forty or fifty at once; and M. de Maupertuis found forty-two young ones in the body of a female salamander, and fifty-four in another. The young ones are generally black, almost without spots; and this colour they preserve sometimes during their whole lives in certain countries, where they have been taken for a distinct species.

#### THE GREEN LIZARD.

The green lizard of Carolina is so denominated from its colour. This species is very slender, the tail is near double the length of the body, and the whole length about five inches. It inhabits Carolina; where it is domestic, familiar, and harmless. It sports on tables and windows, and amuses with its agility in catching flies. Cold affects the colour; in that uncertain climate, when there is a quick transition in the same day from hot to cold, it changes instantly from the most brilliant green to a dull brown. They are a prey to cats and ravenous birds. They appear chiefly in summer; and at the approach of cold weather retire to their winter recesses, and lie torpid in the hollow crevices of rotten trees. A few warm, sunny days often so invigorate them, that they will come out of their holes and appear abroad; when on a sudden, the weather changing to cold so enfeebles them, that they are unable to return to their retreats, and die of cold.

#### THE SIREN.

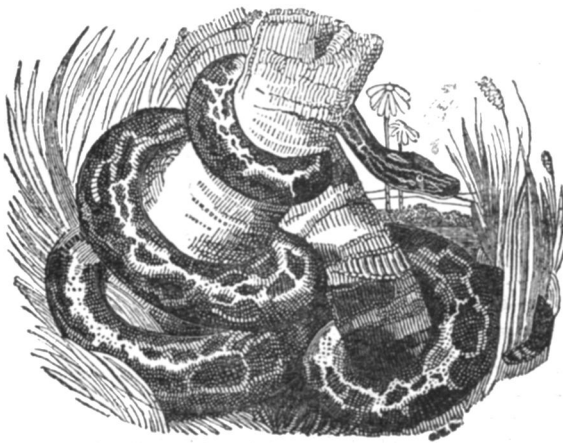
Notwithstanding the fabulous history of the Siren, recent naturalists have classed the species in no higher a grade than that of *muræna*, which includes eels of every description.

The sirens, or sirenes, in fabulous history, were celebrated songstresses, who were ranked among the demigods of antiquity, as half women and half fish. Some say that the Syrens were queens of the islands named Sirenusæ, and chiefly inhabited the promontory of Minerva, upon the top of which that goddess had a temple, built by Ulysses. Others tell us of a certain bay, contracted within winding straits and broken cliffs, which, by the singing of the winds and beating of the waters, returns a delightful harmony that allures the passenger to approach, who is immediately thrown against the rocks, and swallowed up by the violent eddies. Horace calls idleness a siren. But the fable may be applied to pleasures in general, which, if too eagerly pursued, betray the incautious into ruin.

Browne, in his "Vulgar Errors," observes, "Few eyes have escaped the picture of a mermaid, with woman's head above, and fishy extremity below, answering the shape of the ancient Sirens that attempted upon Ulysses—

" 'Did sense persuade Ulysses not to hear  
The mermaids' songs, which so his men did please,  
That they were all persuaded, through the ear,  
To quit the ship, and leap into the seas?'"

The following description of a Mermaid, is given by a Correspondent of the Magazine of Natural History:—"A few years back a mermaid was shown in London. This specimen was said to come from Japan. I can aver that it came from the East Indies; for, being at St. Helena in 1813, I saw it on board the ship which was bringing it to England. The impression on my mind was, that it was an artificial compound of the upper part of a small ape with the lower half of a fish; and being allowed to examine it as closely as I pleased externally, my attention was directed, by the aid of a powerful glass, to ascertain the point of union between the two parts. I confess I was somewhat staggered to find that this was so neatly effected, that the precise line of junction was not satisfactorily apparent. I speak of it in its best state of preservation; perhaps now the imposture can be more easily detected. A short time back, the skeleton of a mermaid, as it was called, was brought to Portsmouth, which had been shot in the vicinity of the island of Mombass. This was allowed to be submitted to the members of the Philosophical Society, when it proved to be the Dugong. The anatomy and natural history was illustrated by some of the members present, and briefly noticed in the Annual Report for 1826-7, p. 21. To those who came to the examination with preconceived notions of the fabulous mermaid, it certainly presented, as it lay on the lecture-table, a singular appearance. It was, if I recollect right, about six feet long: the lower dorsal vertebrae, with the broad caudal extremity, suggested the idea of a powerful fish-like termination; whilst the fore legs, from the scapula to the extremities of the phalanges, presented to the unskilful eye an exact resemblance to the bones of a small female arm. The cranium, however, had such an *outré* brutal form, that even the most sportive imagination could never have supposed it to have borne the lineaments of the 'human face divine.' It is now, I believe, in London."



THE BOA CONSTRICTOR.



THE ANACONDA.

#### THE BOA CONSTRICTOR AND ANACONDA.

These immense animals, many of which measure from thirty to forty feet in length, are in zoology a genus of the order "*serpentes*," of the class amphibia. The boa constrictor has a very thick body, of a dusky white colour, is marked on the back with twenty-four large, pale, irregular spots, having its sides beautifully variegated with pale spots, and its tail of a dark colour.

The head is covered with small scales, and has no broad laminae betwixt the eyes, but has a black belt behind them. The tongue is fleshy, and very little forked. Above the eyes, on each side, the head rises high. The scales of this

serpent are all very small, roundish, and smooth. It frequents caves and thick forests, where it conceals itself, and suddenly darts out upon strangers, wild beasts, &c. When it chooses a tree for its watching place, it supports itself by twisting its tail round the trunk or a branch, and darts down upon sheep, goats, tigers, or any animals that come within its reach, twists itself several times round their body, and by the vast force of its circular muscles, bruises and breaks all their bones. After the bones are broken, it licks the skin of the animal all over, besmearing it with a glutinous kind of saliva. This operation is intended to facilitate deglutition, and is a preparation for swallowing